

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9703

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T ANKARA 4912

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, IS

SUBJECT: TURKISH DEMARCHE TO ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI CHARGE DIVON ASKED ME TO COME BY HIS RESIDENCE THIS MORNING, JUNE 24. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO BRIEF ME ON 90-MINUTE MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL, AT HIS REQUEST, ON SUNDAY, JUNE 22. (I ASSUME ISRAELIS IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR JERUSALEM MAY HAVE ALREADY BRIEFED US ON THIS MEETING.)

2. IN HIGH SUMMARY, DEMIREL (WHO DOMINATED CONVERSATION) STRESSED TO ISRAELI CHARGE THE EXTREME DELICACY AND DANGER OF THE SITUATION IN WHICH GOT NOW FOUND ITSELF. HE SAID THAT TURKEY HAD STOOD LIKE A DAM BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND ISRAEL. HE URGED DIVON NOT TO MISCALCULATE NOR TO UNDERESTIMATE THE SITUATION. THE DAM COULD BREAK. A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE FOR THE WORSE IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS WOULD BE NO GOOD FOR ISRAEL. DEMIREL TOLD DIVON.

3. DEMIREL WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF US EMBARGO WERE NOT LIFTED, GOT INTENDED TO TURN TO OTHER NATO COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE IN FILLING THE GAP. GOT HAD HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER NATO COUNTRIES, BUT HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISION ACTIVELY TO PURSUE THIS ALTERNATIVE. HOWEVER, THESE PRELIMINARY

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SOUNDINGS HAD NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGED THE TURKS TO THINK THAT

EUROPE COULD EFFECTIVELY REPLACE THE US AS SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPLY. IF TURK'S PRESENT APPREHENSIONS ABOUT EUROPE PROVED TO BE VALID, GOT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES, NONE OF WHICH WAS VERY PLEASANT TO CONTEMPLATE.

4. DEMIREL CONTINUED THAT THIS MAJOR TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY CRISIS WAS DEVELOPING AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS RISING VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC EFFERVESCENCE IN TURKEY. HE WAS HEARING, SAID DEMIREL, CRIES OF "YANKEE GO HOME" FROM ELEMENTS IN TURKISH SOCIETY. THE INTERNAL SITUATION WAS WORSENING, CONTINUED DEMIREL, AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS LEADING AN INTRINSICALLY WEAK GOVERNMENT.

5. THRUST OF DEMIREL'S PRESENTATION WAS, OF COURSE, THESIS THAT ISRAEL IN ITS OWN INTEREST SHOULD EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE WITH US CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LIFTING OF EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. DIVON COMMENTED TO ME THAT TURKS SEEM HYPNOTIZED WITH ROLE OF CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL AND BELIEF THAT ISRAEL CAN SOMEHOW PERSUADE HIM TO CHANGE HIS PRESENT POSITION. DIVON SAID HE TOLD DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL THAT ISRAEL WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO PERSUADE CONGRESSMEN THAT LIFTING OF EMBARGO WAS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST AS WELL AS TURKEY'S. HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT ISRAEL DID NOT HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER US CONGRESSMEN BUT HAD TO RELY ON POWERS OF PERSUASION. DIVON IS NOT SANGUINE THAT HE SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL OF THIS.
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